

(b) The total import bill as per original estimate for 2000-01 is estimated to be Rs. 58,368 crores which is based on average price of \$ 20/bbl of crude oil and corresponding product price.

(c) With a view to contain the deficit in the oil pool account, the Government have taken a number of measures such as moving product prices towards import parity and gradual phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products.

Supply of subsidised LPG cylinders to consumers

97. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the LPG (domestic) cylinders supplied to consumers by public sector oil companies are still subsidized, indicating the details of the pricing structure thereof the cost of production, bottling, transport and distribution;

(b) how the subsidy is distributed and utilized amongst producers and distributors; and

(c) how this price structure is linked with international prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The current estimated subsidy on LPG (Domestic) cylinders supplied by Public Sector oil companies is about Rs. 125 per cylinder.

The production cost of petroleum products for a company includes cost of crude oil, processing charges, marketing cost, filling charges, freight, distributors commission, taxes, other levies etc.

The oil companies are paid import parity price for LPG uplifted in bulk, which for the month of July 2000 has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 14297.98/metric tonne.

(c) The current ex-storage point price is not directly linked to the international prices. However, the Government in 1997 had decided that subsidy on LPG (domestic) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01.

LPG agencies in Assam

98. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: